PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, February 11, 2008



NEWS / A6

Filipino teacher wins Martin Luther King contest in US

ACROSS / A21

'People power' called to keep Panlilio as gov

Abalos cries conspiracy; DOTC defends contract





CBCP hails Lozada, JDV III

Lozada relates how 6 soldiers abducted him

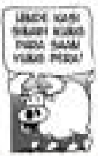


'They may yet save RP from shady deals'

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADERSHIP in the Philippines yesterday said the exposés made by electronics expert Rodolfo Noel Lozada Jr. and businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III on alleged kickbacks in the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) project may have saved the country from the grip of scandalous deals and "personal and family interests."

Palace-Lozada face-off on abduction seen

Envelope with P50,000 goes back to GMA aide



Kampi emerging as dominant party by 2010

ANALYSIS

CDN marks 'breakthrough growth'



Obama wins 4 contests, narrowing Clinton's lead



WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

5 15 16 26 28 47

P43,603,200.00

'Cha-cha next on Palace agenda'

Opposition solon dares Speaker to prove House's independence

WHAT'S INSIDE

AFTER OUSTING SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA and consolidating its hold on the House of Representatives, Malacañang's next big move will likely be the revival of the move to amend the Constitution, according to Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, a spokesperson of the opposition.

[illegible]

Wait and see

[illegible]

House revamp

[illegible]

Prize catch

[illegible]





Annulments rising, notes gov't

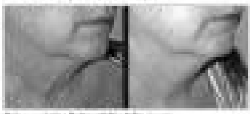


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Abalos cries conspiracy; DOTC defends deal

Do the math

Badgered and hounded

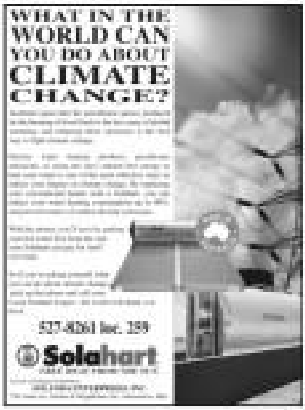
Incredible

Conspiracy

Fabrication



Corrections





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Pinay shares her dream, wins King tilt in US



GARCIA

[illegible]

'Love hurts but prison more painful'



By Leila B. Salaverria

BEING SCORNED BY love can hurt. But revenge can send you to jail.

The Court of Appeals has affirmed a four-year prison term, P100,000 fine and mandatory psychiatric treatment for a man who threatened to spread a pornographic picture with his ex-girlfriend's face on it after she rebuffed his attempts to rekindle their relationship.

The appellate court, in its Jan. 31 decision, ruled there was nothing questionable about the decision of the Regional Trial Court of Baler, Aurora, which in November 2006 found Renato Ang guilty of violating the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act when he harassed his ex-girlfriend and caused her emotional distress.

The woman had complained that on June 5, 2005, Ang sent her a picture through her cell phone of a nude woman with her legs apart. The face was hers.

The day before, Ang, who is married, had asked her to be his mistress but she refused.

She said her face had been apparently lifted from a photo taken with Ang when they visited Tagaytay during their three-month relationship.

Alarmed

Ang had warned her in a subsequent text message that it would be easy to post the pornographic picture on the internet, and asked if she wanted him to send more lewd pictures of her.

Alarmed, she sought the help of the vice mayor of Maria Aurora town and the police.

Ang was arrested and tried.

In his appeal, Ang said the lower court failed to establish that it was he who had sent the obscene picture. He also questioned the qualifications of a computer expert who testified that the photo had been altered. He claimed he had merely forwarded the offending picture.

But the appellate court was not convinced. The decision penned by Justice Mariano del Castillo noted that the threatening text messages could only have come from a man scorned and who was bent on trying to spite his former lover for refusing to reconcile with him.

Adequate proof

It said the woman had provided adequate proof that she and her ex-boyfriend had exchanged text messages through two of his cell phones and the obscene photo was sent through one of them.

The appellate court also debunked Ang's contention that it was not shown that he and the woman had a continuous "dating relationship" for him to be prosecuted for violating the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act. He said their relationship was off and on.



The Daily Gospel

Monday, February 11, 2008
1st Week of Lent
Our Lady of Lourdes
1st Reading: Lev 19:1-2, 11-18
Gospel: Mt 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all his angels, he will sit on the throne of his Glory. All the nations will be brought before him, and as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, so will he do with them, placing the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Commentary

"Mas malayo ang inaabot ko 'pag Shell fuel ang ginagamit!"

– Jozar Laroa, Salesman

Like Jozar, his co-fleet participants Rey and Julius are also enjoying the big benefits of being able to save at least 10% on their fuel consumption through Shell's Fuel Economy Program.

Three ordinary people with no formal or professional training were placed under a 30-day driving program which tested performance, accuracy and consistency in real and normal work conditions, exclusively using Shell Fuel Economy formula gasolines/diesel (Shell Super, Shell Super Unleaded, Shell Diesoline Ultra).

Rey, Julius and Jozar share their experiences on how Shell's program has helped them save time and money.

Rey Montante saved 10.6% on fuel consumption

Rey Montante is a 39-year-old Area Salesman based in Cagayan de Oro who understands the importance of saving. He is a devoted husband and father of two children aged 14 and 16. Every



morning, Rey prays the rosary with his wife at 4:30 a.m. before having breakfast with his children. He leaves for work at 7:30 a.m., taking two rides to the city proper. To save on transportation expenses, Rey waits for a service vehicle if there is nothing urgent for work that morning.

Rey says, "Malaki ang naitulong ng Shell fuel sa amin. We found out na maganda ang takbo at hatak ng mga sasakyan namin, matipid pa. Even after the program, we still use Shell fuels at ginagamit pa rin namin 'yung mga tipid tips sa seminar. In fact, nandito pa sa dashboard ng aking trak 'yung tips, hindi namin inaalis."

Julius Carillo saved 14.2% on fuel consumption

Julius Carillo is a Sales Agent based in Cebu City. He rents a room at a house in the city and has plans to settle down with his fiancée next year. Julius starts his day by waking up at 5:30 a.m. and leaves for work at 7:00 a.m., just before the traffic begins. He is given a gas allowance of PhP1,600 a month because his job requires him to constantly drive around and consume greater amounts of fuel.



Julius says, "Hindi ko akalain na malaki pala ang matitipid ko! Na-realize ko na mas fine pala ang composition ng Shell fuels at nakatulong ito sa pag-increase ng weekly mileage ko. Shell's program has proven to be a big financial help. It saved me fuel, money and precious time."

Jozar Laroa saved 10.6% on fuel consumption

Jozar Laroa is a 42-year-old salesman who is living in Cebu with his family. Jozar makes it a point to see his wife and 3 children everyday, especially since his second child died of dengue in 1995. He saves very little for him and his wife because most of his earnings are spent on the education of his children who all study in private schools.

Jozar said, "Marami ang advantages ng paggamit ng Shell fuel, makakatipid ka talaga. Mas malayo ang inaabot ko 'pag Shell fuel ang ginagamit."

With Shell's experience developing fuels technology and serving customers for over a century, the company has a core role to play in meeting today's energy challenge - helping customers save on fuel and helping the world use its energy more sustainably. This program is only one element, but Shell is positive and hopeful that it will help show that there is plenty we can all do: improving fuel economy is simple and accessible to all.

By following Shell's simple fuel tipid tips below, anyone can save at least 10% on fuel consumption and enjoy the benefits that come with it.

SHELL FUEL TIPID TIPS

Fuel matters
Fuel economy is maximized through a combination of good driving habits and using the right fuel. Shell fuel economy formula is designed to help reduce friction and improve cleanliness in the engine, thereby improving fuel efficiency.

Drive smoothly, drive safely
Aggressive driving can use as much as a third more fuel. Avoid accelerating or braking too hard and try to keep your steering as smooth as possible.

Avoid over revving
Change gears carefully. Never "redline" the rev counter because you unnecessarily waste fuel.

Keep your tires at the right pressure
A tire that is under-inflated reduces fuel efficiency. An under or overinflated tire is also more susceptible to failing and blow out.

Avoid high speeds
The faster you go, the more wind resistance you'll encounter and the more fuel your vehicle will consume just to maintain speed.

Tune and service your engine regularly
A well-tuned engine can help improve fuel economy, so change your oil frequently and follow your car manufacturer's recommendation on servicing.

Remove the roof rack
Roof racks affect the aerodynamic efficiency of vehicles and create drag, reducing fuel economy.

Avoid carrying excess weight
Every extra pound affects fuel efficiency. Keep your trunk or back seat clear of unnecessary items that you use once in a while and just add weight to your vehicle (i.e. golf clubs).

Use airconditioning sparingly
Air conditioning puts added strain on the engine and uses fuel to operate.

Avoid excess idling
Idling burns fuel. Turn the engine off when you're waiting for more than two minutes.

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C146	Beijing, Shanghai 4 Days	Tues, Fri
C1G	Beijing, Shanghai, Guilin 5 - 6 Days	Tues, Fri
C18	Beijing, Xian, Guilin 5 - 6 Days	Friday
C45	Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Guilin 5 - 10 Days	Wed, Fri
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OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND ADVENTURE

EUROPE

Militant taken

Palace-Lozada face-off on abduction seen

Separate issues

Like a 'mafia'

Overprice not established

Skeptical

Credibility test

Kampi emerging as dominant party by 2010

bama wins 4 contests, narrowing Clinton's lead

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Opinion

Pinoy's Big Brother

EDITORIAL

[illegible]



Greed, panic, lies; is justice next?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

[illegible]

Profile in courage

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

[illegible]

Shielding the President

Sounding Board



Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

Conversion

Kris-Crossing Mindanao



Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

Hold the line

The Long View



Manuel L. Quezon III

'Probinsyanong Intsik—bayani ng bayan'

Reveille



Ramon J. Farolan

A scary use of power

LETTERS

Being garrulous not Apostol's job

Barbers' PTA seals good for something

The danger of irresoluteness

Airline must pay RP seaman P1M, SC rules

[illegible]

Lasallians returning to Taft

[illegible]

Apostol apologizes for racist remark

Pagasa: Cool weather to stay

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CBCP hails Lozada, JDV III

Support search for truth

GMA allies confident

Root cause of corruption

No people power



CDN marks 'breakthrough growth'

Bigger canvas

'Indigo' birthday

Lozada relates how 6 soldiers abducted him

'I owe my life to media'

Envelope ...

Defensor's version

'People power' to keep Panlilio urged

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—TWO CATHOLIC priests and a Christian pastor on Sunday have called on the Kapampangans to mount another "people power" against the move by losing gubernatorial candidate Lilia Pineda to unseat Gov. Eddie Panlilio through a recount of votes.

[illegible]

Landslide-hit villages get P65M in public facilities



HOT AIR BALLOON EXHIBITION

Bicol dev't body OKs projects worth P3B



Ibaloi families want to evict PTA from park

Right to evict

Damage

NEWSBRIEFS

■ QUEZON

Limiting of Banahaw visitors pushed

■ LUCENA CITY

Cyanide fishers nabbed in Polillo

■ CEBU CITY

Tuition hikes in 29 colleges

■ BACOLOD CITY

Spiders, beetles, centipedes seized

■ CALAMBA CITY

Police dismiss kidnapping rumor

Anti-NPA drive: 400 'lumad' families flee



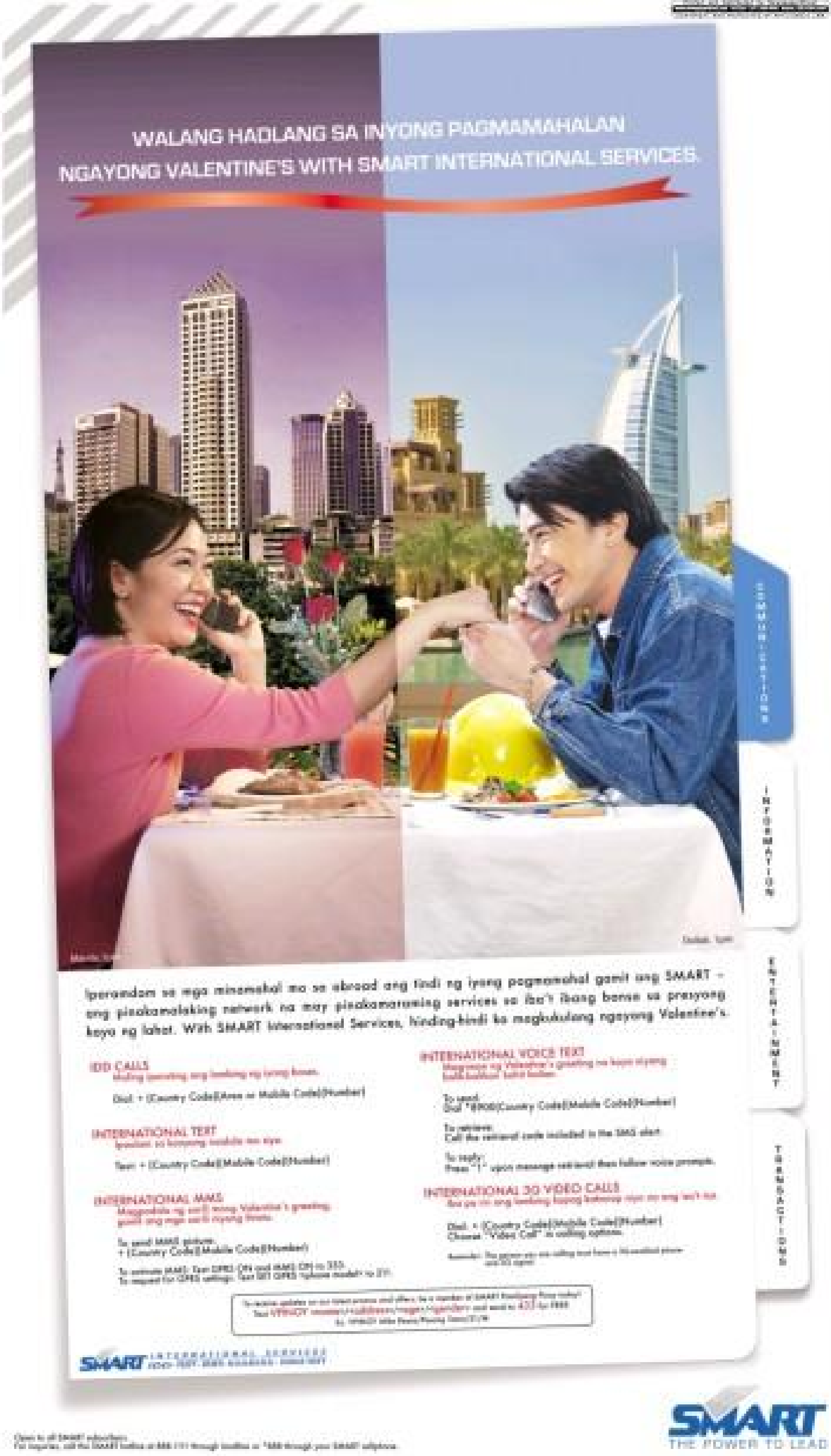
CORN FEST IN PANGASINAN

Weather

Tripartite meet to push thru—MNLF

MILF, gov't meeting tackles ceasefire pact

Capiz to help OFWs, kin



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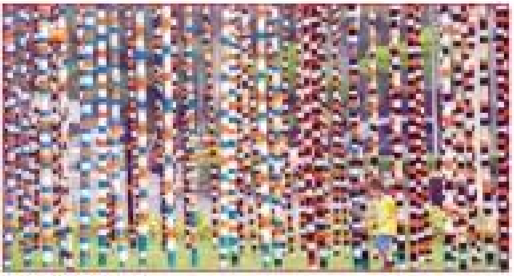
Aplus METRO

PNP chief to men: Nab bank robbers

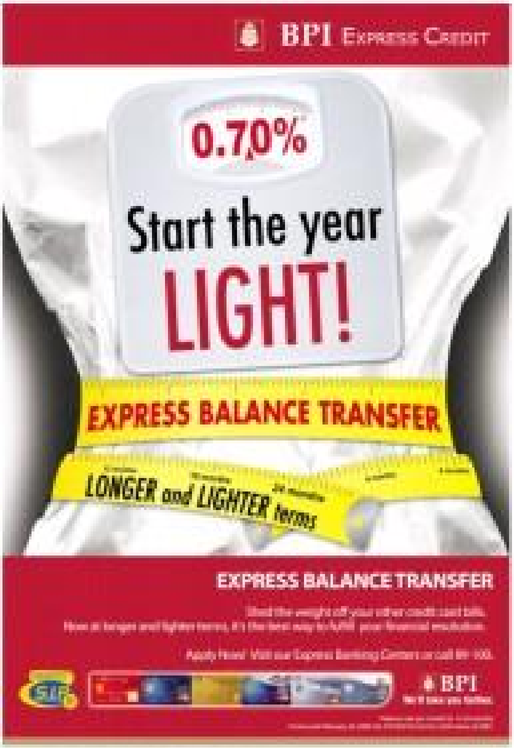
Stepped-up police visibility ordered

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE chief Director General Avelino Razon Jr. yesterday ordered his men to step up their manhunt operations for known bank robbery suspects.

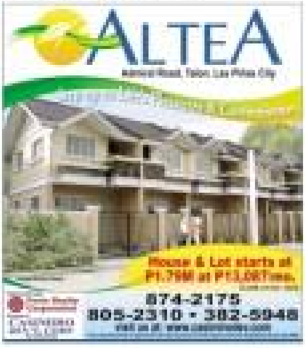
Bad news for landfill users



LAZY SUNDAY MORNING



DID YOU KNOW





MMDA gets tough on 'Pink Line' violators

By DJ Yap

[illegible]



[illegible]

BIR PRESCRIBES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE ADVANCED PAYMENT OF VAT ON REAL PROPERTIES

[illegible]

Citizen's call

A cleaner Caloocan City

[illegible]

Arrogant, ignorant QC traffic aide

[illegible]

Not tickled pink

[illegible]

Double-parked vehicles

[illegible]



WHY NOT USE JACKHAMMERS?

[illegible]



[illegible]

Crocodiles 'invade' Pasay

By Frances Guevarra

[illegible]

Paris broker released in rogue trading scandal



KERVIEL

Reuters

Yahoo set to reject Microsoft bid as too low

Reuters

The WORLD

Burma junta pledges 2010 elections

RANGOON—ARMY-RULED Burma (also known as Myanmar) said on Saturday it will hold a referendum on a new constitution in May followed by elections in 2010, a move critics said was aimed at deflecting pressure after last year's crackdown on protesters.

[illegible]



SUU KYI in [illegible] photo



BACK TO CHAD

[illegible]

Suicide blast kills 20 in Pakistan

CHARSADDA, PAKISTAN—A SUICIDE bomber killed 20 people at an opposition rally in Pakistan Saturday [illegible]

US universities rush to set up outposts abroad

THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION, long the envy of the world, is becoming an important export as more universities take their programs overseas.

[illegible]



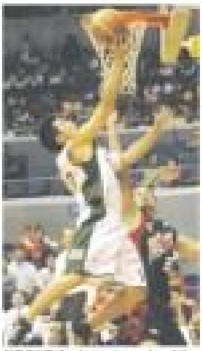
WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Japan Cuppers go 5-0 over Pinoys /A30



SPORTS

Realtors, Giants forge title duel



Sta. Lucia seals first Finals stint in seven years

Villar guest of honor in SMC-PSA awards night



VILLAR



PACQUIAO

Japan Cuppers go 5-0 over Pinoys

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JAPAN SWEPT THE REVERSE SINGLES YESTERDAY to complete an impressive 5-0 shutout of the Philippines in their Davis Cup Asia Oceania Group I tie at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.



SPORTSWATCH

UST ends Adamson volleyball run

UNO, Xavier complete semis cast

Can Pacquiao play the executioner



BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



Mail and More stakes its claim to Cruz

Pacers continue long climb out of slump



...ws Marquez?

Bacolod gets Cuban 'face-lift'

MC 5-cock derby today

Hot Reds turn back Blues in Estella Cup



THE REDS' Joaquin Pitulaga (2) beats the Blues' Iñigo Zobel (3) and Paulino Pierrez (2) to the ball during the Estella Cup's high-goal match at the Enrique Zobel Field of MPC.

Samuya, Dela Rosa rule

Tale of two victories in Milo Puerto Princesa elims

IN THIS ISSUE

BUSINESS

Asian Hospital secures ₱2-B loan from IFC

WB unit funds hospital's foray into medical tourism

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas has approved a P2-billion loan to be provided by the International Finance Corp. to Asian Hospital and Medical Center, which is gearing up for a more active role in the medical tourism business.

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET



US woes still weigh on traders

PSE out to woo back world's trading giants

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE IS OUT to woo back some of the foreign financial giants that had pulled out of local stock operations in the years following the 1997 Asian crisis.

VISAYAS, MINDANAO PROJECTS

Transco earmarks ₱15.6B in '08 to boost grid

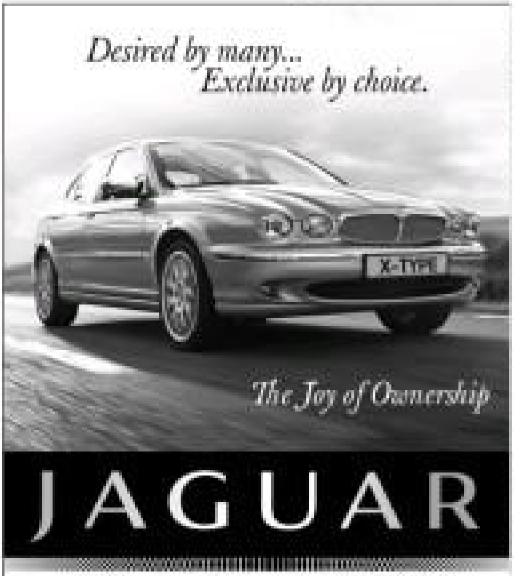


Lessons from a Nobel laureate

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito





BTr execs scratch their heads over market's poor appetite for 91-day T-bills

Tourism sector tapped to push DTI program

US woes still . . .



SM Prime net income hit ₱6B in '07 on new malls

By Elizabeth Sanchez-[illegible]

MALL DEVELOPER SM PRIME Holdings Inc. said its net income grew 13 percent to P6 billion in 2007 from P5.4 billion in 2006 with the entry of new malls.

In a statement, SM Prime said gross revenues last year rose 14 percent to P15.3 billion.

With three new malls opened and three existing malls expanded in 2007, rental revenues contributed the largest share of the income.

Rental revenues increased 17 percent last year to P12.8 billion from P11 billion in 2006.

Cinema ticket sales registered a 13-percent increase to P1.[illegible] billion, versus P1.[illegible] billion the previous year.

This is largely due to new malls adding 3,500 cinema seats to the existing 119,300 total seating capacity.

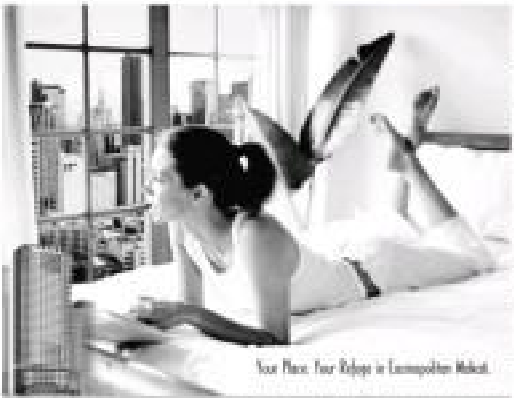
Income from operations rose 13 percent to P8.7 billion from P7.7 billion in 2006. Operating expenses, on the other hand, increased 19 percent to P6.6 billion.

The three new malls inaugurated in 2007 were SM City [illegible], with a gross floor area (GFA) of 41,415 square meters, SM City Taytay with a GFA of 91,920 sq.m. and SM Supercenter Muntinlupa, with a GFA of 53,986 sq.m.

Those expanded were SM City Pampanga, SM City Cebu, and SM Mall of Asia. As of end 2007, SM Prime's 30 malls nationwide, 15 of which are in Metro Manila, have a combined GFA of 3.9 million sq.m. with an average daily pedestrian count of 2.5 million.

"SM Prime successfully met its 2007 targets. We are satisfied with the achievement. What we have attained last year serves as a challenge for us to work and strive even harder in 2008," SM Prime president Hans T. Sy said in a statement.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE



Fruit exporter planning to hold IPO this year

Raising funds for expansion program

Ayala Land posts 13% increase in net income

NFA eyes 3rd tender for rice import deal

Stimulus package seen warding off US recession

Analysts divided on long-term impact of tax rebate program

Chrysler to cut models, dealerships

Wall St. braces for grueling week

Canadian firm explores local nickel processing

Former DOE official named new Nido chief



DE DIOS

[illegible]

Asian Hospital …

[illegible]

PSE out to woo …

[illegible]







₱658M earmarked for corn program

DA sees expansion in areas planted

DOT holding tourism fair

People, Events & Products

Globe backs e-Services Philippines '08



Cycad holds Century Ride Feb. 24

Young architect wins Autodesk design tilt



Leading tourism advocates to open Travel Tour Expo

RC-Ermita fund-raising concert Feb. 13



MOH TIES-UP WITH VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEFS, FIREFIGHTERS

Simmons: Revolutionary sleep



Extreme sports celebrated at The Fort

UST's 'Balik Artists' on Feb. 16



HONORARY CONSUL APPOINTED



BAYVIEW PARK HOTEL HOSTS LUNCH FOR WEDDING PLANNER SUPPLIERS

INFOTECH

Cisco set to revolutionize data center operations





Mobile karaokes for on-the-go Pinoys



Dress up the Eee PC



BUSINESS

DOF to review perks given to ecozone firms

Move prompted by reported abuse of the system

Despite strong peso, OFWs still buying houses

RLC putting up 6 more malls in '08

BUSINESS Monday

Execs get into the 'dead' business



BUSINESS Monday

Strategies for global survival—a review of G.R. Copley's book

MAPping the Future

Execs get into the 'dead' business

High cost

Following pre-need

Teamwork

BUSINESS Monday



Thomas Edison's 130-year-old firm expands in RP



By Doris C. Dumlao

WHEN SCIENTIST Thomas Alva Edison invented the light bulb and founded the predecessor of General Electric in 1878, he probably didn't imagine that his enterprise would grow into a diversified global conglomerate with interests in technology, media and financial services a century after.

[illegible]



GE PRESIDENT Colin Low

Changing profile

[illegible]





It's getting crowded in paradise



AS BORACAY gets crowded, the government is trying to step in, but with limited success.

Despite a moratorium, about 100 establishments have been allowed to be completed

Generali nets ₱2.4B

Ethanol plant to catalyze development



Thomas Edison's ...

From page B1



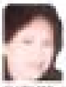
GE MONEY is expanding in the Philippines.

Global commitment

Movements



VELORIA



CLUTARIO



REBAS

BOC promotions

Cuervo Appraisers' new head

Pacific Gaming beefs up management

New 4A's president

Tradition helps build business bond

THE RECENT CHINESE NEW YEAR revelry in Chinatown in Binondo, Manila, proved to be an opportunity for different companies to make their presence felt in what could probably be the country's most lucrative business community.

The Filipino-Chinese community, accounting for a sizable portion of all industry and trade activities locally, becomes a battleground for all sorts of marketers—from "hopia" makers to insurance firms to politicians—selling their wares especially during the welcoming of the new year. This year's fete was no exception as busy streets Ongpin, Quintin Paredes and the Binondo Plaza practically became exhibit halls for a slew of promotional materials—streamers, banners, everything that sells.

"Some companies even aspire to own the event by trying to monopolize preparations for the new year. The entire Binondo area is transformed into a big advertising space where marketers try to outdo each other for exposure, but of course, it all boils down to budgets," said Jose Giullas, vice president and corporate communications head of RCBC.

In the case of RCBC, Giullas says the rationale for participating in the celebration goes beyond mere exposure. "RCBC owes the Chinese community a lot. In 2007, for instance, our wealth management arm got a big boost from our Filipino-Chinese accounts, which shows the amount of trust that the market has given RCBC. Our wealth management business doubled last year, thanks to this market," he revealed.

Reciprocating the community's trust through the Chinese New Year celebration justifies the investments made to participate in the event. For this year, RCBC mounted many promotional events for a specially designed float, some tokens and goodies, lion and dragon dance performers, and even a group of moving Chinese mannequins. The bank even fielded some of its tellers to wish all parade goers "Kung Hei Fat Choy." All told, Giullas says the goodwill generated from the event has outweighed the costs.

"You don't really have to spend much for exposure. Just spend smart. What really counts is getting your message across that your institution is really there for the community it is supposed to serve," he said.

More than just for promotions, there is also a special reason why RCBC need to make its presence felt in the new year festivities. "Our chairperson Helen Dee was born under the year of the monkey, and our president and CEO Lorenzo Tan, under the year of the ox. Both are supposed to be very lucky signs in the Year of the Rat. We thought that the parade should allow us to ride on the combined good fortunes of their signs as it makes us welcome the year of the rat in a very festive mood," Giullas jokingly said.

RCBC is the country's fourth largest private universal bank in terms of capital base with more than 300 branches nationwide. In the last 12 months, RCBC grew its net income by over 50 percent at P5.21 billion. Last year, it opened seven new domestic branches and four new branches in North America.

BUSINESS Monday



ILOCOS farmers deliver tomatoes to the NFC plant in Sarrat, Ilocos Norte.

On a mission to save Ilocos tomato sector

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SOME 5,000 FARMERS IN the Ilocos provinces are proud of their "Ilocos red" tomatoes, and they should be.

The special tomato variety that grows only in this part of the Philippines has a deep, red color and is as juicy as it looks. The meat is thick and stays fresh longer than the other types of tomato.

Ilocos red is also hardier than most, with its skin not as easily bruised and battered as its cousins. This is good news indeed for quality control people who demand that their tomatoes look as good as they taste.

The Ilocos red tomatoes are thus the perfect type to be processed into tomato paste—a main ingredient used in manufacturing different types of tomato-based sauces.

They are also much sought after by those who just want to sink their teeth into a ripe, crunchy fresh tomato with bagoong on the side.

Institutional buyers in the Philippines, such as Jollibee Foods Corp., get to enjoy the essence of the Ilocos red because of the dogged efforts of the Northern Foods Corp., which bred the Ilocos red variety in its laboratory, to keep its tomato paste manufacturing facility in Sarrat up and running as efficiently as mechanically possible.

NFC chair Bernardo J.R. Mitra said it was a challenge, to say the least, to keep the facility in commercial operation because it is 28 years old, thus it no longer as cost efficient as it used to be.

The state-run NFC, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture and the country's largest tomato paste manufacturing company, produces about 6,000 metric tons of tomato paste a year and the volume is equivalent to about 30 percent of the local tomato paste market.

This market share has gone down to 18-30 percent because NFC is losing part of its sales to competitors from China, which has more hectares devoted to tomato plantations, compared to only 500-800 hectares spread across a number of towns in Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur, including Piddig, Sarrat, Vintar and Sinait, Cabugao and Narvacan.

Mitra says NFC manages to keep a significant share of the tomato paste market because local industries prefer to help the local farmers and also the simple fact that the Ilocos red just tastes so much better than the competition.

He says, however, that NFC could not bank on just the taste to keep its customers loyal.

It also has to sell its tomato paste at a price that can compete with those in China and this would entail vital investments in modernizing the old plant.

"Operating the plant is just like driving a 25-year-old car. It no longer performs as expected and is prone to breakdowns," Mitra explains in the Ilocano.

"We have already done everything possible outside putting in new facilities to improve the plant's performance. But because of the age, we are like a Volkswagen competing against the Toyota Camrys of China," Mitra adds.

NFC's plant is into production only in the first three months of the year. The following months are devoted to marketing and sales activities and by July, NFC is busy planning for the next production season.

The rest of the year is then devoted to helping the farmers tend to their tomato plantations, improve their yields and address their concerns.

NFC also devotes time to maintaining the aging plant and making it ready to accept the next year's volume. An estimated 500 tons of tomatoes pass through the NFC's doors every day during production season.

"It's already a miracle that we have lasted this long. But if we don't improve the facility, it won't last much longer. It is possible that the plant will have to be shut down," he says.

This will spell disaster to the 5,000 farmers who depend mainly on the sale of tomatoes to NFC for their livelihood.

NFC is, after all, the biggest employer in the region and also the biggest taxpayer.

"We want to continue being a big employer in the region. We want to keep the farmers happy. That's why we need the investment," Mitra says.

NFC has brought its case to Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap, with NFC president and CEO Marcos Luis T. Quintos asking for some P200 million of the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund to improve the production efficiency of the old plant.

Mitra says that with the additional capital, the plant would be able to produce better quality tomato paste out of the same volume of tomatoes, which should make the company more profitable.

NFC currently requires about six kilos of fresh tomatoes to make one kilo of tomato paste.

He adds that part of the money would also allow NFC to package smaller quantities of tomato paste, aside from the large drums, to cater to smaller institutional clients, such as hotels and restaurants that heavily use tomato sauce.

"We are also looking into the possibility of using organically certified tomatoes in order to a higher-end market like Europe," Mitra says.

NFC still has big plans for the tomato processing facility. All it needs, he says, is a little more than a little help from its friends.



ABOUT 500 tons of tomatoes pass through NFC's doors every day during production season.

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso Subsection Editor Lito B. Zulueta

ROMANCE AND LETTERS

Love lines from the love-prone

From Manila to Singapore, love makes the world go round

COMPILED by Jovanie Gomez, James Ong, Dexter Matilla and Lito Zulueta

All-consuming



My favorites are from the Song of Songs of the Old Testament:

'Like a lily among thorns is my darling among the maidens.' (Songs 2:2)

'How beautiful you are, my darling! Oh, how beautiful!' (4:1)

I love these verses because they show how love can be consuming but with so much respect and compassion.

Piolo Pascual, matinee idol and star of the TV series, "Lobo," which runs daily on ABS-CBN

Persistent, patient



I choose Sonnet XLIII by Elizabeth Barrett Browning:

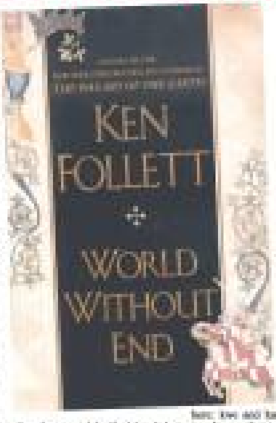
'I love thee with a passion put to use/In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.'

The reason I like it is because I think to be in love again—after getting hurt or disappointed many times—with as much passion as you used to have and with the pure faith that a child has, is how love should be. Love persists and is patient.

Ina Feleo, 2007 Cinemalaya best actress for the film "Endo," which opens this week in SM's Metro Manila theaters

IN THIS ISSUE

Love in the time of the Black Death



There is a lot to read and like in 'World Without End,' Ken Follett's mammoth soap opera of medieval life

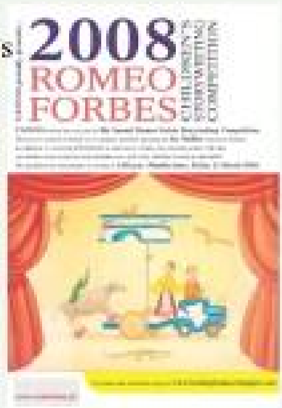
Win 'A Date to Remember'



Flash fiction from Milflores



Children's story contest



Love lines from . . .

From page C1

A la Wes Craven


LOURD de Veyra

I like Cirilo Bautista's "Paralisis," from the collection "Sugat ng Salita." It's about a husband and wife who express their love by literally and figuratively stabbing each other. Hilariously ballsy, bloody but tender in a Wes Craven kind of way:

'Kaya't/Sa katapusan ng araw magbibilang kami ng/sugat//at sila mga galamit na kakulawa/ay magtatawanan magsasanduhan pa//Ganito kaming lagi sapagkat/tabis ang pag-ibig namin sa isa't isa.'

Lourd de Veyra, poet, essayist and singer (leader of the Radioactive Sago Project)

Unconditional

I like that simple line from the 'Kite Runner,' the novel by Khaled Hosseini:

'. . . for you a thousand times over.'

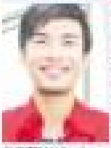
I just finished the book and just watched the movie over the Chinese New Year long weekend. It's a phrase that says a lot about loyalty and love, romantic or otherwise. I'd marry the person who can say the line to me. Imagine having someone loving you unconditionally a thousand times; that's what we all really need. Someone who can love you like that will really just make you a better person, or, at least, would make you want to be a better person. If all of us are in love every day, imagine just how much better this world would be.


TIMOTHY W. Go

Timothy W. Go, presenter and senior producer for "News, Business" and "That's IT," Channel News Asia, MediaCorp News, Singapore

Getting it real

I like 'If You Forget Me' by Pablo Neruda:


CHRISTIAN Bautista

'But if each day, each hour, you feel that you are destined for me with implacable sweetness, if each day a flower climbs up to your lips to seek me, my love, my own, in me nothing is extinguished or forgotten. My love feeds on your love, beloved, and as long as you live it will be in your arms without leaving mine . . .'

I love those lines because they show that love is as real as it gets.

Christian Bautista, recording star

Passion's work

I love Ophelia A. Dimalanta's 'Time Factor':

*'Two age-wrenched passions meet, miss
Time's cues, mistake time's script,
And if time were but today who cares?
Never mind the lapse in history
And place.'*


ALICE M. Sun-Cua

This poem hits me with the sheer power of its message: Love can grow in the strangest of places, and in the most improbable of ways. Who can explain the chemistry between disparate characters, unencumbered by time and place? The cartography of love, at once familiar and strange, can only be drawn up by one who is in the Here and Now—for it is the Present, melding with the past and the future, that lovers should inhabit—at least in this poem, never mind if reality intrudes. The juxtaposition of a seemingly quiet garden in the heart of Seoul and the bacchanalia that transpired within its walls, Wu Ti dancing with Silla's maiden, at first glance seemed to jar, but slowly they fuse into cohesive images: passion's work. Interminable time, indeed, is never a hindrance, lovers will always transcend it, as they cry: "I want you to any where, on Way or here, now or in another time…"

Alice M. Sun-Cua, physician, poet and [illegible]

Burn, baby, burn

I choose Ophelia A. Dimalanta's 'A Kind of Burning,' especially the lines:

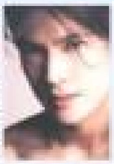
*'We have been all the hapless lovers
in this wayward world
in almost all kinds of ways
except we never really meet
but for this kind of burning.'*


JOHN Jack G. Wigley

I love the poem because it shows how love is the greatest leveller. It is the common thread that binds and connects us to one another no matter how seemingly disparate or distant we are. We may see how unfortunate or tragic our lives have been because of the problems that constantly beset and plague us, but love offers a way to redeem us from our miseries, whether imagined or real. It is all because when we yearn for love, we burn for it.

John Jack G. Wigley, assistant to the director, UST Publishing House

Hatred's offspring?

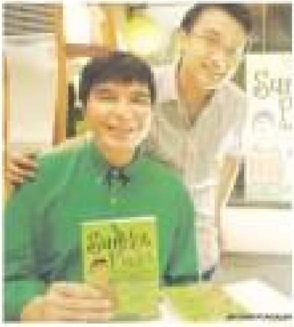


I love that line from Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'—

'My only love sprung from my only hate.'

It's spoken by Romeo who's a Montague when he finds out that Juliet is from the enemy Capulet clan. I like it because I am able to relate to it based on my experience.

[illegible] Ocampo, actor, model, matinee idol



Naughty joke book

[illegible]

VISUAL ARTS

Abriga at a galerie

[illegible]

Malang, Baldemor, Linpo, Perez at Y

[illegible]



"CLASSIC Form of Cultural Imperialism"

[illegible]

Sena students' exhibit

[illegible]

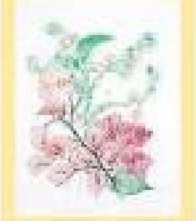
Coffee landscapes at Green Meadows

[illegible]



Met Museum features prints of Lenore RS Lim

[illegible]



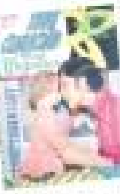
"CADENA de Amor"

LIFESTYLE



Greenbelt 5 opens with a celebration of world-class Filipino talent in art, music and fashion

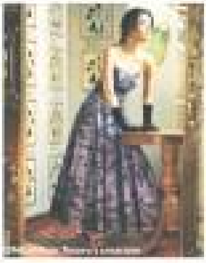
Bravo, Filipino!



ONE of the album covers from the Himig Collection of Filipinas Heritage Library



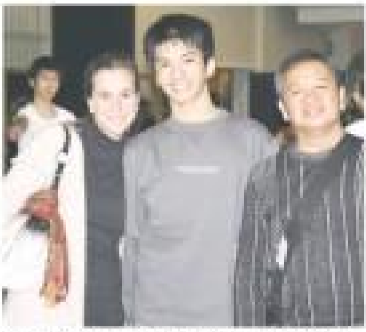
RYAN Cayabyab will perform in a series of concerts at Ayala Malls.



Steps to the spotlight



Sofia Zobel-Elizalde has made it her mission to give young Filipino dancers the chance to shine here and abroad



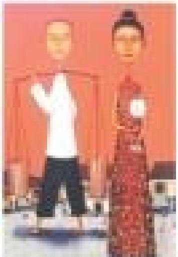
Meeting McCoy

The foundation

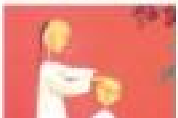
First performance

Rubio's 'Chinatown' at Raphael









"BARBERO"

Rogue, road warrior, peasant slave



NICCOLO Manahan (Hamlet) and Cris Villonco (Ophelia, right) with Joel Trinidad, Bodjie Pascua, Jamie Wilson and Jojo Riguerra

From page D4

That sense of aimlessness, which feels oddly bourgeois rather than princely, jams his Hamlet into a fix. Absent any tragic sparks, this most heartbreaking of characters reduces to brats.

Visual wallop

To return to "bland confusion": it may seem like an odd phrase to describe a milieu that's been transposed from the medieval baronial shadows of Elsinore Castle to a post-apocalyptic world of howling desolation and horrific savagery.

There is no denying the visual wallop of Denis Lagdameo's set design (a bare ramp framed by desert sand and smoking fuel pots), Faust Peneyra's meticulously imagined costumes, Martin Esteva's stark lighting, and Jethro Joaquin's ethereal score.

A spectral, transporting vision, the scenery lends powerful atmospheric shape to this elemental tale of chaos, savagery and death.

Gracious and courtly

But one has to ask: If this "Hamlet" and its denizens have located themselves in a post-civilized world of tribal thuggery and marauding bandits...



THIS reimagined "Hamlet" is bold, sensational, brash

...ism, why is everybody—from King Claudius (a fierce if thin-voiced Joel Trinidad) and his Gertrude (Frances Makil-Ignacio), weary and careful) down to the garrulous Gravedigger—still behaving as the gracious and courtly lot?

The dystopian setting, almost another character in this production for its sheer candle and outward punch, somehow primes us for a tougher, meaner, less ritual-bound and more physical take on "Hamlet" than the curiously mannered, tasteful vibe that its cast delivers—despite their punkish makeup, Mohawk hairdos, "Mad Max" regalia and the occasional neck bustle on the mind.

For the most part, none of them (except perhaps Jamie Wilson, as a spirit, hovering lecturer) seems internally informed by their peculiarly exotic environment.

That organic disconnect between tone and scheme—between, on the one hand, Manahan's solidly sensible Hamlet surrounded by people of a similarly cultivated ... and, on the other, an atmosphere of Mad Max harshness with its distorted sound and fierce chaos that by right should breed only the most brutish, animal creatures—is a puzzle that the production fails to address. The scenery impresses, but on its own.

Because her character stands as a solitary flower in the midst of this wasteland, Cris Villonco's Ophelia is the only figure whose delicacy seems anchored. Her meltdown in the second act is moving—a moment that confirms the promise of a young actress worth following on the local boards.

Innovation and tinkering

This "Hamlet," too, dare we hope, marks another peg in the gradual way Rep is revitalizing its brand of theater.

In its last few seasons, the 40-year-old company has opened itself to innovation and tinkering, from adaptations ("Sepharad" remixed as 1970s Malate, for instance) to new creative blood coming in (Gino Gonzales doing the arrestingly abstract set for "Song & Dance" last year).

"Hamlet" is perhaps the plumbest entry yet in Rep's emerging new era, with Rilloraza as a first-time director, many of her actors and creative team coming from outside Rep, and the production itself a decent distance from the company's standard fare of middle-of-the-road comedies and musicals. (It presented the Paul Rudnick farce "I Hate Hamlet" in 1992, but never "Hamlet.")

Warts and all, it's a watchable, honorable piece of work that adds heat to Rep's welcome thaw.

"Hamlet" runs until Feb. 17 at Onstage Greenbelt 1. Call (632)7-TO-RESERVE, visit www.repertory-philippines.com or www.ticketworld.com.ph.

E-mail the author at gcruz@inquirer.com.ph; visit www.gibbscadiz.com.

Kiddie musicians in concert



THE PHILIPPINE Montessori Center Instrumental Ensemble with tenor Nolyn Cabahug during their first concert at the University of Makati



LEFT to right: Luis on the snare drum; Enzo, cymbal; Marcus, bass cymbals; and Juan, timpani

TO CELEBRATE ITS 40TH anniversary, the Philippine Montessori Center will feature the PMC Instrumental Ensemble in a special concert titled "Once Upon a Happy Note... Encore!" on Feb. 11, 6 p.m., at the Meralco Theater.

This concert, the second of two concerts spotlighting this band of preschool musicians aged 4-8, is part of the school's fund-raising efforts to send this batch of PMC instrumentalists to New York this April. The kids have been invited to their very first back-to-back concert with the Children's Orchestra Society based in New York.

The joint concert will be held at the Queens Theater in the Park. Another solo concert is scheduled at the Parish House of the Manhattan Christ Episcopal Church.

The PMC will play a preview of their New York concert, showcasing classical pieces such as "Waltz from Sleeping Beauty" by Tchaikovsky and Khachaturian's "Sabre Dance," excerpts from "Sound of Music," Filipino folk songs and popular Western melodies.

"Once Upon A Happy Note ... Encore!" will also present 12 selected students of the Philippine Montessori Violin Ensemble, as well as two celebrity guests—Pops Fernandez and RC Concepcion. A unique highlight of the show will have composer Louie Ocampo playing an original composition he created for this show together with the kids.

Tickets are available at the Philippine Montessori Center office at 9114800 or 9114806.

Rogue, road warrior, peasant slave



LIFESTYLE

FIL DELACRUZ

Love as ceremony of the innocent



"ALAALA"

By Lito B. Zulueta

In breathtaking colors, the artist paints love's highs and wages

LOVERS OF FIL DELACRUZ, rejoice! There's a new celebratory air to the more recent oil and acrylic works of Fil Delacruz.

While the trademark gold remains here and there, the dominant colors are not as much brilliant or penetrating or foreboding, but festive and pulsating, even sunny and perhaps saccharine.

Overall, the works take the viewer's breath away and make them fall in love.

It would be easy to charge it all on Valentine's, that season of swooning feeling. In fact, Delacruz has entitled his latest show "Irog," perhaps to mock romantic reference to the edges and [illegible] of love and romance.

But perhaps the key words here are ceremony and ritual. The celebratory air owes to Delacruz's ceremony of the innocent—of a neophyte's rite of passage into the mysteries of the heart.

Romantic, naturalist

Romance fits into the artist's oeuvre because the Delacruz iconography is basically romantic. Strictly speaking, his works continue to be naturalist in spirit, reflecting both his [illegible] roots and his long stint in Mindanao, living with the Manobos, in the 1980s. Through all of this, he has evolved a syncretic aesthetic that is part pantheistic, part humanist.

In a way, the only way to tackle romance is through naturalism. By a return to nature, one discovers the roots of desire. One discovers that love is not flight of fancy, but a mooring on the earth.

Love's moorings are evident in Delacruz's works. The familiar female form seems to

LOVE B3

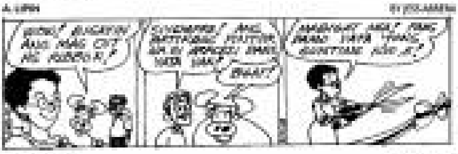
A diario nevela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

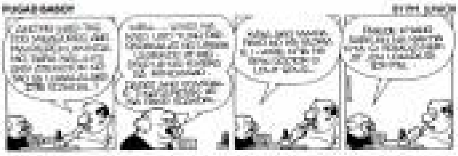
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA



A. LIPIN



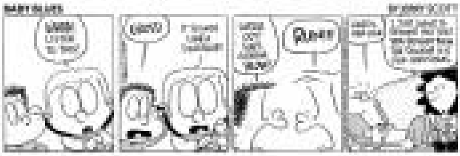
PUGAD BABOY



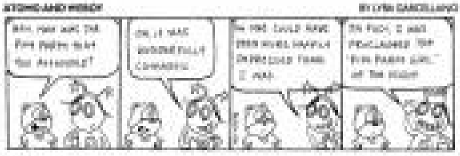
GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS



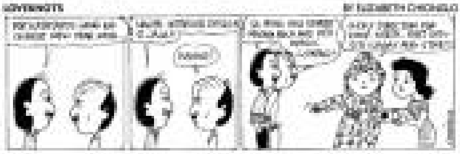
BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT



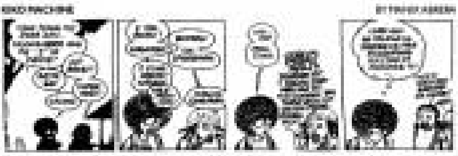
ATOMO AND WENDY



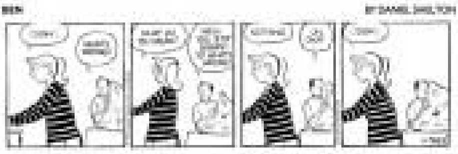
LOVEBIRDS



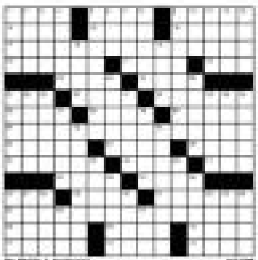
KIKO MACHINE — BY MANIX ABRERA



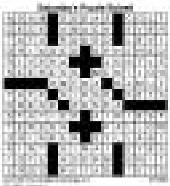
BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD



Saturday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

	2		3		7		8	
8	5						6	3
			5	8	4			
7		4				1		8
		9		1		6		
3		2				9		5
			6	7	2			
1	7						9	6
	3		1		5		4	

Difficulty Level ●

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

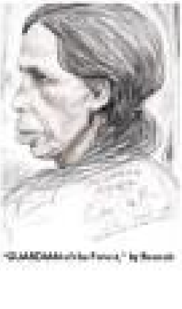
Opening on Valentine's Day in Puerto Princesa City is an exhibit featuring works by artists committed to biodiversity



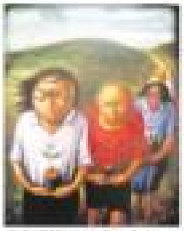


For love of art and environment











Artists reaching out

Love as ceremony of the innocent





From page E1



"LIPAD"

International contest for sustainable construction projects

PRIDE OF PLACE
Augusto Villalon

THE SECOND HOLCIM AWARDS competition to promote sustainable construction worldwide is now open. [illegible]

'Target issues'

[illegible]

Top universities

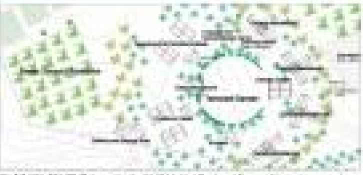
[illegible]

48 prize-winning projects

[illegible]

Philippine entry

[illegible]



ENCOURAGEMENT Award in the 2005 Holcim Regional Competition was granted to a student entry from the Philippines, "Ivatan Agricultural Campus in Mayan (Batanes)."



"CONCRETE Substance for Accelerated Coral Restoration," an innovative entry from the Philippines that stimulates coral regeneration, was awarded the silver prize.



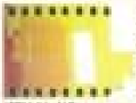
VISUAL ARTS

Ching at West Gallery



[illegible]

Al Cruz exhibit



"STILL," by Al Cruz

[illegible]

3 artists at West Space 2

[illegible]

Escanillas in Cebu



[illegible]

Gascon at Hiraya

[illegible]

Zaballero at Mandarin

[illegible]

ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE

- Lea Salonga to young singers: Choose songs well Dollywood /G1
- Ara Mina explains why she'll never forget Manny Pacquiao /G3

Erik Santos to ex-GF Rufa Mae: Apologize





WOMEN IN MOURNING

METRO MANILA

IMAX

THE PODIUM

LUZON

VISAYAS • MINDANAO

GALLERIA

1 27 DRESSES • THX
2 THE EYE
3 IndieSine: ROXANNE
4 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
5 THE BUCKET LIST
6 MY BROTHER's WIFE
7 IN THE NAME of the KING / ONE MISSED CALL
8 MIST
9 CLOVERFIELD
10 JOHN RAMBO / NATIONAL TREASURE 2

ERMITA

1 NATIONAL TREASURE 2 / ONE MISSED CALL
2 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2 / 27 DRESSES
3 THE EYE
4 MIST
5 JOHN RAMBO
6 CLOVERFIELD / SAW IV
7 IN THE NAME of the KING
8 MY BROTHER's WIFE
9 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
10 THE BUCKET LIST

METRO EAST

1 IN THE NAME of the KING / ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
2 MIST
3 27 DRESSES / ONE MISSED CALL
4 THE BUCKET LIST
5 CLOVERFIELD / JOHN RAMBO
6 THE EYE
7 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
8 MY BROTHER's WIFE

NOVALICHES

1 THE EYE
2 IN THE NAME of the KING
3 THE BUCKET LIST
4 GOOD LUCK CHUCK

PIONEER

1 MIST
2 THE BUCKET LIST
3 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
4 THE EYE

STA. ROSA

1 CLOVERFIELD
2 SAW IV
3 ONE MISSED CALL
4 GOOD LUCK CHUCK

LIPA

1 JOHN RAMBO
2 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
3 SAW IV
4 GOOD LUCK CHUCK

DASMARIÑAS

1 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
2 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
3 ONE MISSED CALL
4 THE EYE

IMUS

1 THE EYE
2 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
3 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR
4 ONE MISSED CALL

ANGELES

1 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
2 SYDNEY WHITE
3 THE EYE
4 DRAGON WAR

TARLAC

1 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
2 JOHN RAMBO
3 AMERICAN GANGSTER

STARMILLS

1 DRAGON WAR
2 THE EYE
3 SYDNEY WHITE
4 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
5 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
6 JOHN RAMBO

BACOLOD

1 DRAGON WAR
2 JOHN RAMBO
3 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
4 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
5 SWEENEY TODD
6 MARTIAN CHILD / ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2

ILOILO

1 CLOVERFIELD
2 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
3 GOOD LUCK CHUCK
4 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
5 P.S. I LOVE YOU
6 SWEENEY TODD

Spinning wheels of faith, fate, fortune

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

The 'it' factor

Viewing treats on HBO





Romantic movies for Valentine's month

BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL MAN AND woman is a "one proud mama."

Q-11's newest prime time program, "One Proud Mama," is a weekly magazine talk show, that brings to the spotlight the mothers of some of the country's biggest and famous personalities.

Hosted by singer Jaya, it features non-celebrity mothers who have managed to "quietly" support their successful children.

The show airs on Mondays, 8:30 p.m.

V-day films

Hallmark Channel presents the following romantic movies for Valentine's month.

It's the ultimate battle of wills in "Falling In Love With The Girl Next Door" on Feb. 13, 11 p.m.

When it comes to love, no one can really play by the rules, as we'll prove in "Love Is A Four-Letter Word" on Feb. 14, 8 p.m.

Love's passions and misunderstandings are rediscovered in the romantic drama "The Engagement Ring" on Feb. 14, 11 p.m.

'How Do They Do It?'

"How Do They Do It?" reveals how much people rely on robot slaves hidden from view in factories, down mines, up on the mountains and beneath the ocean.

It is about engineering and scientific miracles and the people whose ability to solve problems make them happen.

New episodes air every Friday 9 p.m. beginning Feb. 22.

'Oprah'

On Feb. 18, 8 p.m., Cindy Crawford and husband Rande Gerber give viewers a peek into their home, and Cindy gives audiences a dose of her favorite pie recipe in "Oprah" on Hallmark Channel.

Ivanka Trump, Donald Trump's daughter, takes viewers through her New York apartment, while Forest Whitaker's wife Keisha Nash shares her favorite things.

"Oprah" is seen from Monday to Friday 1 p.m., Monday to Wednesday 10 p.m. and Sunday 8 p.m.

'Ultimate Olympics'

Discovery Channel presents "Ultimate Olympics: Hi-Tech Games," a look at people and organizations involved in organizing the Beijing Olympics.

These are the people whose knowledge and expertise are instrumental in ensuring that everything is perfect—from influencing the weather to recording accuracy of a step down to the crucial millisecond.

The episode airs Feb. 24 at 8 p.m., with replays on Feb. 25, 12 midnight, 8 a.m., 2 p.m., 2 p.m. and March 2 at 8 a.m.




"FALLING In Love With The Girl Next Door"

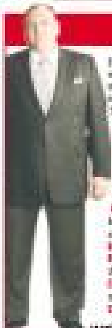

"ULTIMATE Olympics"

'Fashion Fanatic'

Traveling to the major centers of fashion—Italy, Paris, New York and Los Angeles—fashionista Stacy London interviews top designers to find out why some women are willing to pay thousands just for the latest pair of shoes or try on over 50 wedding dresses before deciding on the perfect one.

"Fashion Fanatic" airs on Feb. 14 and 15 at 9 p.m. on Discovery Travel & Living.

Mob speak


(AP) Gandolfini plays Tony Soprano.

EVERY PROFESSION HAS ITS BUZZ words. For viewers who just recently stumbled into Tony Soprano's via the HBO replay of the award-winning series "The Sopranos," this glossary may be useful:

Friend of ours. Shorthand for introducing one "made guy" to another "made guy."

Action. Business.

Administration. Top "management"—boss, underboss, consigliere.

Associate. One who works with mobsters, but hasn't been asked to take the vow; an almost "made guy."

Borgata. Crime family.

Boss, Don. Head of the borgata, who runs the show.

Capo. Captain of a smaller unit within the mob family; he leads a crew.

Clip. To murder. Also whack, hit, pop, burn, cap, put a contract out.

Code of silence, omertà. Not saying a word. Suspects must be cleared of any charges or who's been considered innocent of the charges.

Consigliere. Advisor.

Crew, cugines or soldiers. The capo's "gritty" bottom level of the organization.

Eat alone. Keep for one's self; to be greedy.

Family. Organized crime clan.

Garbage or waste management business. Organized crime.

Goomah. A mafia mistress.

Heater. Carrying a weapon.

Made guy or wise guy. Indoctrinated member.

Mattresses. Going to war with a rival clan.

Mob. A single organized crime family, or all organized crime families together.

Rat. Informant.

Shakedown. Extort money from.

Spring cleaning. Cleaning up, hiding or getting rid of evidence.







ROUNDUP

'Spiderwick Chronicles'

From Mark S. Waters' adaptation of the fantasy book of the same title by Holly Black and Tony DiTerlizzi, "The Spiderwick Chronicles" tells the tale of the Graces, a family who moved away from the big city to settle in the run-down Spiderwick Estate.

The three Grace siblings find themselves mysteriously drawn into an alternate enchanted world.

The movie screens at the Imax in SM Mall of Asia and Digital Cinemas at SM North Edsa starting Feb. 14.

'Hairspray'

Atlantis Productions brings to Manila the Tony Award-winning musical, "Hairspray" in November.

The play will be mounted at the Star Theater at the CCP Complex.

Atlantis will also restage the hit musical "Avenue Q" at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati from June 13 to 22.

The musical is for mature audiences only.

ENTERTAINMENT

Disney World to create 'Idol' attraction

CHEER FACTOR



Lea's advice to young singers

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal



Original 'Bad Boys'

'Good Times' on TV

'January Babies'

Loveless on V-day

KC in 'MMK'





CURTAIN RAISER

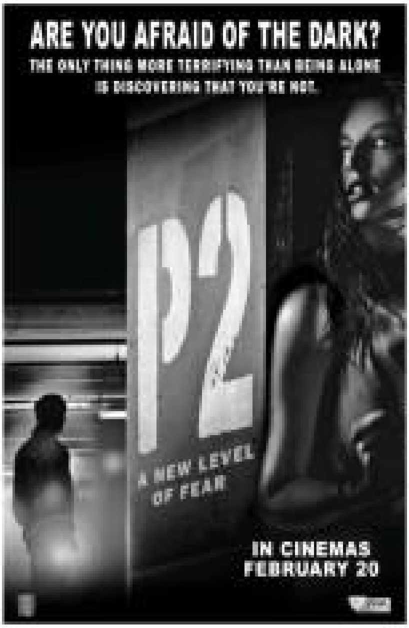


FEEDBACK

Enough, miss



Celso Ad film set for DVD release in US





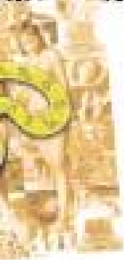
50th Gramm
Bennett, Che

AT THE CINEMAS

AT THE MALLS







ys on today;
r to perform

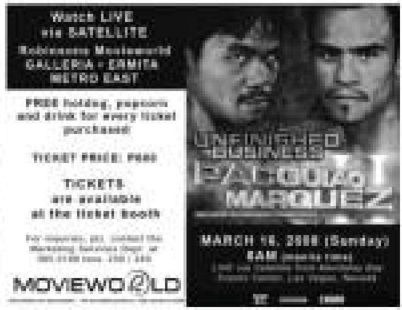
'I'll never forget Pacman'

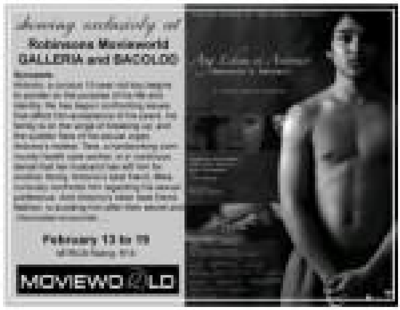


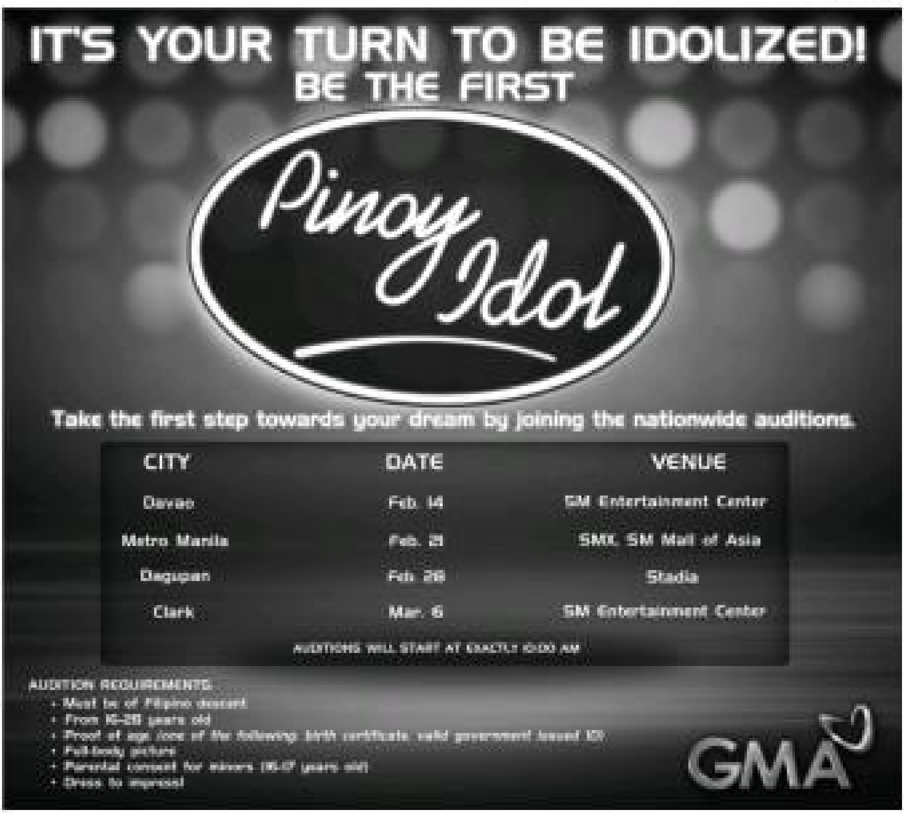


New year, fresh start

One more night for Ne-Yo's RP concert







CHOOSE YOUR Valentine SHOW

EVERY YEAR, INQUIRER Entertainment helps readers pick the best show for that special date, by asking the concert artists what they have in store for audiences. This is part seven of the 2008 series.

Erik Santos and Rachelle Ann Go

"Ill 4 Luv," with Christian Bautista and Sarah Geronimo, Feb. 15, Araneta Coliseum. Call 911-5555.

When you're not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's?

Erik: With my family.

Rachelle: I spend time with my family.

What is the most romantic Valentine's Day you've ever experienced?



RACHELLE Ann Go

Rachelle: After a Valentine show, this guy surprised me by waiting outside the venue with flowers.

What's an ideal Valentine date?

Erik: Dinner by candlelight on the beach.

Rachelle: A whole day of fun and adventure, and then star gazing at night.

What's your fantasy date?

Erik: Angelina Jolie.

Rachelle: Matthew Goode.

What's the most romantic love song?

Erik: "If I Believed" by Patti Austin.

Rachelle: "In a Rush," "The Last Time" and "Made Me Whole."

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch?

Erik: Maroon 5.

Rachelle: Regine Velasquez, Martin Nievera, Lani Misalucha, Beyonce, Sharon Cuneta, Lea Salonga, Gary V.

Why should we watch you?

Erik: Because we prepared a lot of surprises. After watching it, I'm sure everyone will feel in love.

Rachelle: The four of us will be singing the most romantic love songs. We'll make your date unforgettable.

Juris Fernandez of MYMP

"A Valentine for Forever," Feb. 16, 8 p.m., Meralco Theater. Call 911-5555.



JURIS of MYMP

When you're not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's?

I recall having Valentine concerts ever since I started singing, but I always find time to have dinner with my loved ones.

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you've ever experienced?

It's always romantic when you're with someone you love.

What's an ideal Valentine date?

With someone you love.

What's your fantasy date?

A double date with Lea Salonga and her husband.

What's the most romantic love song?

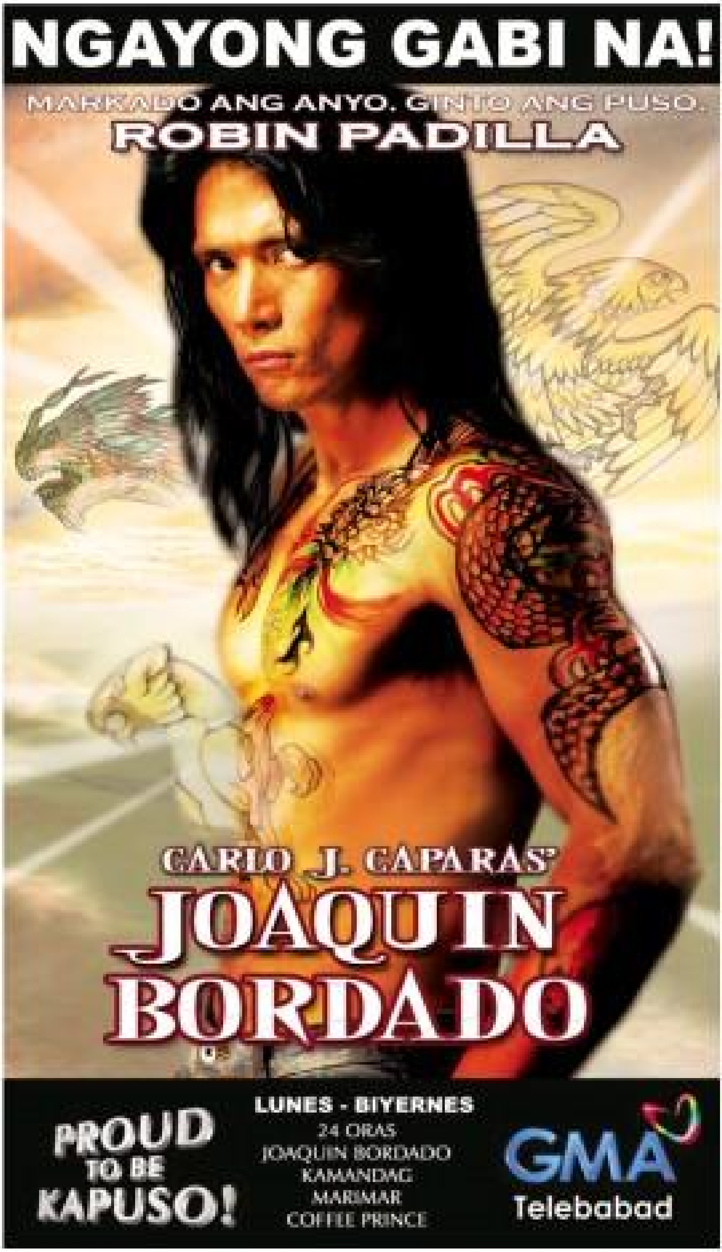
"Come Away With Me" by Norah Jones.

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch?

Gary Valenciano. I haven't watched any of his concerts yet.

Why should we watch you?

We have the perfect songs to match how you feel on this Valentine season.



Tagum ready for week-long 'Musikaban'

TAGUM CITY—OFFICIALS ARE BUSY preparing for the week-long "Musikaban" festival, which promises as much fun as Cebu's "Sinulog" and Davao City's "Kadayawan" celebrations.

The event, set from Feb. 21-27, was started in 1998 by Tagum City Mayor Rey Uy. It was stopped for three years, but is now back in full swing.

"It's all about music. It's the city's dream of becoming a music hotspot not only in Mindanao, but also in the entire country," Alma Uy, president of the city tourism council, said.

The festivities, which include music competitions, will showcase the talents of some 3,000 students [illegible] one of the city's free musical training [illegible] and musicians from other parts of Davao del Norte and neighboring provinces.

Uy sees "Musikaban" as a springboard that will attract new business to the city, such as musical instruments, souvenir shops, food and other ventures that would cater to locals and visitors alike.

Wide scope

The city council earlier passed an ordinance declaring Feb. 21-27 as Musikaban Week.

Contest entries from musicians outside the Tagum region have been coming in, while musical ensembles, such as the world-famous Loboc Children's Choir, have shown interest to perform in the festival, Uy said.

Gloria Amigo, city tourism officer, said the organizers have decided to widen the festival's scope to include villages outside the city. Competitions will also be conducted in barangays "so that the festive mood will not just be monopolized by residents in the city proper," she said.

Winners will receive cash prizes and plaques, while their barangays will get infrastructure packages worth P100,000 to P500,000.

"This year, 'Musikaban' will introduce the concept of music wellness," Uy explained. Participants will be playing in hospitals to help entertain and comfort patients, as well as bring joy to the malls and public markets. *Frinston Lim, Inquirer Mindanao*